

*****Milestone Edition*****

END OF THE ROAD!

Ex-Iraqi leader detained without shots being fired

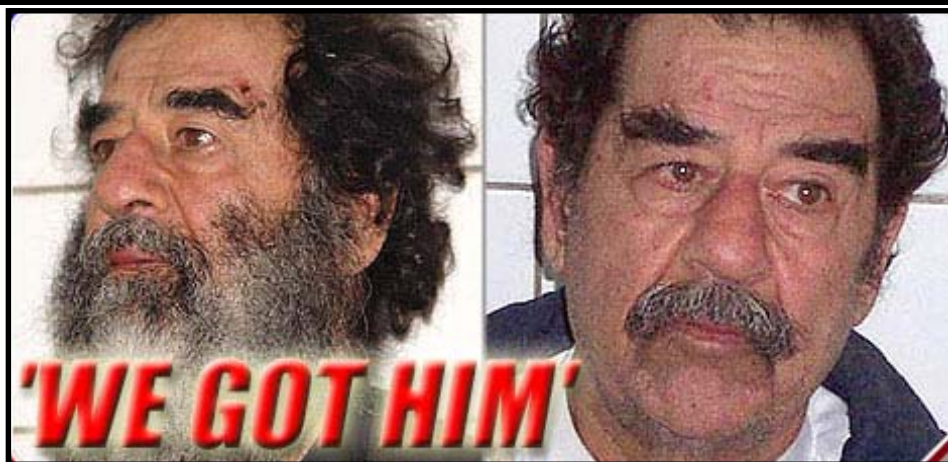
By Edward Wong and Kirk Semple
The New York Times

BAGHDAD, Iraq—Saddam Hussein, the deposed Iraqi leader, was captured in a raid on a farm house near Tikrit on Saturday night, American military officials confirmed Sunday.

The officials said they had used DNA tests to confirm his identity.

"We got him," American administrator L. Paul Bremer III said at a news conference here.

Coalition troops discovered Hussein hiding in a hole below the farm house, located in the town of Adwar, 10 miles from Tikrit.



Military officials said that Hussein had put up no resistance and that not one shot had been fired in the operation. American officials hailed the discovery of Hussein as a major tactical victory in their fight to wipe out the vestiges of the old government.

Finding Hussein also solved one of the great mysteries that tormented the American-led occupation force in Iraq: whether he was still alive and, if so, where he was hiding. British Prime Minister Tony Blair welcomed Hussein's capture.

"This is very good news for the people of Iraq," he said in a statement released by his office. "It removes the shadow that

has been hanging over them for too long of the nightmare of a return to the Saddam regime."

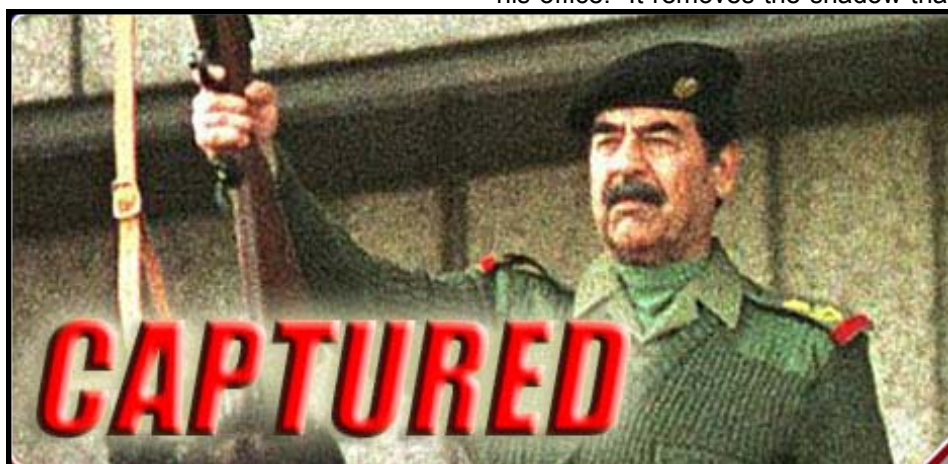
By midmorning in Washington, President Bush still had not made a public statement about the matter.

American officials hope the capture of Hussein will undermine the guerrilla-style insurgency that has left hundreds of coalition soldiers dead since President Bush declared an end to major combat operations on May 1.

"Amanresigned" At a news conference Sunday announcing Hussein's capture, American officials aired a video showing a bearded and scruffy-haired Hussein being examined by a doctor.

Hussein was in a six-to-eight-foot-deep "spider hole" that had been camouflaged with bricks and dirt, Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez said at the news conference. The video showed an air vent and fan installed in the hole to allow Hussein to remain hidden for an extended period.

"The captive has been talkative and is being cooperative," General Sanchez



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From the Top

Injuries expected to drop with new parachute



By Pfc. Eliamar Castanon
December 11, 2003

FORT BENNING, Ga. (Dec. 10, 2003) — Airborne Soldiers should expect to see a new parachute system in the next few years that will replace the T-10 model that has been in use since the 1950s.

The Advanced Tactical Parachute System is expected to decrease the landing impact velocity for jumpers, provide a more reliable reserve system than the Modified Improved Reserve Parachute System of the T-10 and improve the harness.

"We were looking for a parachute that will lower the rate of descent and lessen the impact with the hopes and expectations that this would result in a reduction in injuries," said Joe Jones, combat development specialist with the Directorate of Combat Developments.

Rate of descent is the speed at which jumpers fall to the ground.

The T-10 has been modified a number of times but has reached the limits of its growth. A new approach had to be taken, Jones said, resulting in an entirely different design.

The ATPS canopy is not circular in shape, as the T-10 is. It is a highly modified cross-shaped canopy

with an inflated diameter 14 percent greater than that of the T-10, with 28 percent more surface area.

The reserve unit is a cone-shaped, center-pull deployment system. It includes apex scoop pockets at the top of the canopy and skirt assist lines at the system's hem to promote fast opening during low-speed malfunctions.

The main container bag is made of Cordura, an abrasion- and water-resistant fabric.

Both the ATPS main and reserve canopies are made of low-porosity ripstop nylon with Teflon-coated suspension lines.

The entire system weighs 51.2 pounds, compared to the T-10's 44 pounds.

The 14-percent weight increase earns jumpers a 25-percent reduction in rate of descent. The T-10's rate of descent is 22 to 24 feet per second, causing a strong landing impact. The ATPS' rate of descent is 16 feet per second, reducing the landing impact by 53 percent.

The T-10 parachute system was designed when the total weight of a jumper and equipment averaged 300 pounds.

During Operation Just Cause, more than 4 percent of Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, suffered jump-related injuries - 28 Rangers and their equipment weighed between 350 and 435 pounds.

"The T-10 was originally intended for jumpers who didn't weigh what Soldiers weigh today and wasn't intended to carry the loads that Soldiers carry today," Jones said.

Other advantages of ATPS are the reserve system and the harness, said Jones. The ATPS reserve offers improved reliability, he said.

"The ATPS has a reliability of .95, compared to the .75 to .80 of the T-10," he said.

The reserve is also equipped with enhanced deployment techniques,



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which equal low opening shocks. It may be deployed using either hand, offers a soft loop closure and has a rate of descent of approximately 26 feet per second with low oscillation.

The biggest advantage in the improvements of the harness is the attaching point of the reserve parachute system, said Jones.

When a T-10 reserve is activated, the opening forces are located in the waist area; essentially, this bows the jumper, he said. ATPS reserve risers connect to the harness in the shoulder area. Now when the reserve canopy opens, the opening forces are passed down through the long axes of the body, minimizing the bow effect.

The harness is also fully adjustable and is compatible with the current and future battlefield equipment.

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The T-10 and ATPS are mass tactical parachute canopies, meaning they are not steerable. Because these are not steerable, distribution is managed by exit sequences and timing, aircraft altitude and speed, wind and canopy drift characteristics, Jones said.

Because ATPS is not a steerable parachute, test developers are still trying to increase the obstacle avoidance variable while in the sky or on the ground, said Maj. Jason Craft, assistant program manager of personal airdrop systems at the Natick Research Laboratories in Natick, Mass. "The bottom line is that ATPS

reduces jump injuries to airborne Soldiers so they're in better condition to go into combat operations," Craft said.

The ATPS is being tested at Yuma Proving Grounds in Yuma, Ariz., and will be fielded between 2005 and 2006.

CAPTURED from pg. 1

said. Coalition troops captured two other Iraqis in the raid and seized two AK-47 assault rifles, a pistol and \$750,000 in \$100 bills, General Sanchez said.

He described Hussein's demeanor during the arrest, saying he seemed "a tired man—also, I think, a man resigned."

Officials said Hussein was being held at an undisclosed location and that American authorities had yet to decide whether to hand him over to the Iraqis for trial. Iraqi officials want him to stand trial before a war crimes tribunal created last week.

Celebratory gunfire broke out all over Baghdad, and large crowds poured into the streets, especially along commercial strips like those in the Karada neighborhood. People were speaking ecstatically of the capture, hugging and shaking one another's hands.

Earlier in the day, rumors of the capture sent people streaming into the streets of Kirkuk, a northern Iraqi city, firing guns in the air in celebration, The Associated Press reported.

"We are celebrating like it's a wedding," a resident, Mustapha Sheriff, told the news agency. "We are finally rid of that criminal."

Another resident, Ali Al-Bashiri, said: "This is the joy of a lifetime. I am speaking on behalf of all the people that suffered under his rule."

But in Ramadi, a town west of Baghdad that has served as a loyal support base for Hussein, people had not heard about the capture by early afternoon. A feeling of anger was building up against the American occupiers, triggered by a car bomb this morning outside the police sta-

tion in the nearby town of Khalidiya.

The bomb went off at 8:30 a.m. this morning, killing at least 21 people, mostly police officers, and wounding at least 33, according to military and hospital officials. Men standing at the scene and at the hospital blamed American forces for the blast, even though it was clear that the bomb was targeting Iraqi police working with the Americans.

Administration officials have said that Hussein's survival, despite the American hunt and a \$25 million reward for information leading to his capture or proof of his death, appears to have been a motivating factor in the armed opposition against American forces. A mystery solved The whereabouts of Hussein had been a mystery since at least March 20, when the United States initiated the war in Iraq with a strike by cruise missiles and bombs on an installation in Baghdad where the top Iraqi leadership was believed to be hiding.

On April 7, three days after Iraqi television broadcast two videotapes of Hussein taped on an unknown date, the United States made a second attempt to kill Hussein by bombing a building in the Mansour district of Baghdad, where intelligence sources said the Iraqi leadership had gathered.

Those two strikes prompted some optimism at the White House that Hussein and his two oldest sons had been killed. But with the failure of investigators to find physical evidence of Hussein at the two sites, combined with testimony of senior Iraqi officials in American custody who said the Iraqi leader had not been at those locations, American intelligence agencies concluded that they probably missed their target.

This view was further strengthened by the broadcast in the past several weeks of at least four audiotapes with a voice purporting to be that of Hussein. One of them may have inadvertently dampened the skepticism about his sons' deaths by calling on Iraqis to mourn them.

American officials said the most compelling indications that Hussein was still alive were the intercepted communications among fugitive members of the paramilitary Saddam Fedayeen and the Iraqi intelligence service discussing the importance of protecting his life.

American officials had hoped they were getting closer to determining the whereabouts of Hussein when troops killed his sons, Qusay and Uday, on July 22 in a four-hour gunbattle with American troops in a hideout in the northern city of Mosul. But an initial burst of confidence gradually faded away and, as the bloody weeks dragged on, and American troops were unable to find either Hussein or conclusive proof that he had been developing weapons of mass destruction, the White House and the Pentagon tried to shift attention from those failures by arguing that the most important thing was that Hussein had been removed from power.

Still, even Bremer, the American administrator in Iraq, acknowledged several months ago that the coalition's inability to capture him or recover his body was helping to fuel the resistance movement.

"I would obviously prefer that we had clear evidence that Saddam is dead or that we had him alive in our custody," Bremer said. "It does make a difference because it allows the Baathists to go around in the bazaars and in the villages, as they are doing, saying: 'Saddam is alive, and he's going to come back. And we're going to come back.'"

Precision Flying “Mountainhawk” Style



*Story and photo by
Spc. C. Elijah Spencer
211th Mobile Public
Affairs Detachment*

Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan -- Among the variety of aircraft operated by the United States Army, the UH-60 Blackhawk is possibly the most versatile and widely used of them all. It has the capability of air-assault, medical evacuation, troop and cargo transport, and sling load missions. Each of these types of missions have been done in Afghanistan. The Blackhawk has proven its reliability and worth time and time again here. The helicopter however, is only as resilient and sturdy as the men and women maintaining and operating it. In the case of the Bravo Co. 2-10th AVN, Task Force Knighthawk (Mountainhawks), the men and the machines are certainly a match made in heaven.

The Mountainhawks have been in Afghanistan for five months. In that amount of time, they have flown more flight hours than would normally be allotted for in one year of operation back at

Ft. Drum, N.Y.. Given the high demand of missions, a Blackhawk crew, which consists of two pilots and two crew chiefs, cannot allow themselves to be caught flat footed. The relationship between pilots and crew chiefs of a Blackhawk is unlike any other. Everyone has to depend on each other to get the job done. Every member of the crew has a certain set of responsibilities, however everyone is always willing to do whatever is needed to keep things going.

“You can’t just pull a crew out of a hat.” Said CW3 George C. Kelly, a crew pilot from Chicago, Ill

In the early morning darkness you can always find glimmers of a head-mounted flashlight flickering back and forth on the flight line. The crew chiefs are diligently at work keeping their birds in the fittest of flying condition. Checking levels, double checking all moving parts and making sure that nothing can go wrong while in flight. They don’t do it because they have to, they do it because they want to. The pride and joy exhibited by the Mountainhawk’s crew chiefs to their respective bird is similar that of an

avid driver and his prize hot rod after spending countless hours tweaking the engine.

“For every one hour of flying, there are three hours of maintenance.” said Spc. Christopher M. Tetzlaff, Crew Chief, from Port Clinton, OH.

While the spectacle of lights of the crew chiefs dances back and forth on the flight line in the midst of darkness, another performance is occurring in the



Capt. Joshua Higgins powers up his UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter before take-off.



Command Post for the Mountainhawks. The incorporation of computer generated weather forecast, geographical landmarks to indicate a waypoint on a flight route, sleep deprivation, coffee, and a risk assessment, all becomes a detailed mission brief through a few pecks at a keyboard and a couple of clicks of a mouse. The crew pilots will create a mission brief that details the day's mission down to the minute and will be given to the other pilots in the flight to be put into their knee boards for reference in flight..

"Everything in the aviation world is plus or minus thirty seconds," said Capt. Joshua Higgins, Co. Commander from Johnstown, PA.

The Mountainhawks of 2-10th have been put to the test day after day. Each time they prove why they are the best damn assault helicopter platoon in the Army, according to Kelly. Operating a government aircraft worth over 10 million dollars is not an easy job, yet the men and women of Bravo Co. do it day after day, mission after mission, without hesitation, doubt, or fear. The unity and professionalism in which the crews of Bravo Co. perform, goes in a class by itself.

"I've served in assault helicopter companies for as long as I can remember, and this is as fine a group of aviators and crew chiefs that I have ever worked with." Said Kelly.

The Mountainhawks take finesse to a whole new level when it comes to flying, maintenance, and getting the job done. This precision and care also carries over into whom or what they are transporting. They have a sense of unity and camaraderie when on the job. This

is shown by just how far they are willing to go to help out their fellow infantryman.

"They are more than just passengers....they're our guys and we try to do as much as we can for them" said Kelly.

While flying, the crews integrate an inordinate amount of visual checks and measures into their normal movement through the aircraft. Pilots check their knee board computations and look at the levels on the gauges in front of them; all while ensuring that they are steady on course to their destination. The crew chiefs in the cabin ensure that everything behind the pilots seats is in order and that the far right and left of the helicopter is clear of any hazards, all while scanning their areas with their guns and re-

laying vital flight info to the pilots. To see this type of harmonic activity is a thing of beauty as well as amazement. How can they do all of this and still manage to tell jokes back and forth while in flight?

"Everyone's pretty serious but we still have fun." said Tetzlaff.

Despite recent news of a much dreaded extension to the 10th Mountain's tour here in Afghanistan, the Mountainhawks don't seem to be severely affected by it at all. Day after day, you can still find someone either pecking away at yet another mission brief or down on the flight line ratcheting away fixing their birds to ensure that the Mountainhawks continue to set the standard of aviation in the skies of Afghanistan.



Spc. Christopher M. Tetzlaff secures an engine intake cover for mounting during a maintenance check.

WORLD NEWS



Afghans Open Constitutional Convention

By **STEPHEN GRAHAM**
Associated Press Writer

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A landmark constitutional convention began in Afghanistan on Sunday with solemn prayers, the songs of children and a stirring speech by the nation's former king, who echoed the aspirations of his war-weary countrymen with a call for unity and peace.

Some 500 delegates - from village mullahs to Western-educated exiles - were gathered at a huge tent in the capital, Kabul, to hammer out a new constitution in a traditional *loya jirga*, or grand council. Among the issues they were expected to spar over were the role of Afghan women, Islam's place in politics and the sharing of power in a nation accustomed to fighting over it.

"The people are relying on you and you should not forget them," the 88-year-old former monarch, Mohammad Zaher Shah, told the assembly. "I hope you will try your best to maintain peace, stability and the unity of the Afghan people."

The *loya jirga* is a key step in the two-year drive to stabilize the country under an empowered central government, and is supposed to lead to national elections slated for June.

The king spoke after a reading from the Quran, Islam's holy book, by a blind cleric and a rendition of a traditional Afghan folk

song by a group of young children, wearing Nike shirts under richly embroidered traditional vests, that brought several delegates to tears.

"This constitution will determine the political, social, and economic future of Afghanistan," President Hamid Karzai told the gathering. "For the first time in the history of Afghanistan, the people of Afghanistan have the opportunity to appoint the representatives of their choice. ... This constitution will guarantee the rights of all Afghan people ... and put an end to anarchy."

Security was extremely tight after warnings from the U.S. military that Taliban militants might try to attack the convention. Afghan soldiers lined the roads leading up to the meeting site, and everyone entering the tent was patted down for weapons and explosives.

Huge lines of delegates waiting to be frisked snaked out of the tent before the session started early Sunday. Many female representatives arrived in all-en-shrouding burqas, but took them off once inside.

Many wore fine silk robes, some with western suit jackets slung over them. Yellow, burgundy and cream colored turbans jutted out from the crowd, as did the simple woolen caps worn famously by slain former Northern Alliance commander Ahmed Shah Masood.

The new Afghan National Army placed machine-gun posts and tanks near the perimeter and the city's 5,500-strong international peacekeeping force is providing additional security.

For U.S. officials pushing the process, the Afghans' experience could provide lessons for Iraq, where American administrators have faced an even tougher task in drawing up a constitution. American and Iraqi leaders have differed over how to even start drafting the document. A timetable calls for elections to choose delegates for drafting an Iraqi constitution in early 2005 - about two years after Saddam Hussein's fall.

American officials hailed the start of the gathering.

"To the members of the *loya jirga*, I say you are making history," said U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad in an open letter. "The people you represent are watching you with great anticipation. And the world is watching as well."

Khalilzad said the constitutional process was a chance for "Afghanistan to join the ranks of successful countries, overcome the tragedies of the past quarter century, and seize the opportunity for a more hopeful future."

It could take 10 days to several weeks for the *loya jirga*, meeting at a Kabul college campus, to finalize a 160-article draft drawn up by a constitutional commission.

Delegates predicted arguments over calls by the U.S.-backed Karzai for a strong chief executive, with opponents pushing for a prime minister who would share power. Karzai this week said he would not stand in next year's elections if a strong prime minister's post is created.

Some feared the power struggle would overshadow other key issues like the rights of women, or that the president would bargain away too much to Islamic hard-liners in return for their support for a presidential system.

Afghans appeared torn - wanting a government strong enough to rein in powerful warlords, but not so strong as to create the makings of a dictator.

"If we have a powerful presidency, we can win the support of the international community and overcome the warlords," said Muhibullah Saheem, a 35-year-old delegate from Ghazni province, the site of some of the most ferocious Taliban attacks.

But another delegate, 32-year-old Abdul Rehman, an ethnic Tajik, warned that: "If we give all the power to one man he will just do something for himself."

WORLD NEWS



Murder Charge Filed as Indiana Bodies ID'd

HAMMOND, Ind. — Authorities charged a tenant in a rundown apartment house with murder Thursday as three bodies discovered buried beneath a layer of freshly poured concrete in the building were identified as missing teenagers, police said.

The remains, discovered during a search for the three missing teens, were found covered in heavy layers of plastic and duct tape. Police used a jackhammer and hand tools to locate and remove the bodies from the concrete.

The suspect, David E. Maust, 49, has been in police custody since Tuesday. He had gone to prison for the 1981 murder of a 15-year-old Illinois boy but was released in 1999.

Maust was scheduled for an arraignment on Friday.

Coroner David Pastrick identified the victims as Michael Dennis, 13; James Raganyi, 16; and Nick James, 19.

Holes were first drilled through the 12-inch thick concrete last Friday. Further digging Tuesday revealed two bodies, wrapped in plastic and tied with cords and tape, a police affidavit said. The third body was removed Wednesday.

Dennis and Raganyi were last seen Sept. 10 at a home near where Maust lived in

this northwestern Indiana city. The two teens were friends and had visited Maust in his second-floor apartment, a friend of theirs told detectives.

James, the 19-year-old, died of blunt trauma to the head, Pastrick said, but strangulation or suffocation were the suspected causes of death for the younger teens.

Police Chief John Cory said Maust had confessed to strangling Raganyi with a rope while drinking alcohol with the teen Sept. 10.

Detectives were expected to continue working in the house for most of the weekend collecting evidence, but Sgt. Christopher Matonovich, a city police spokesman, said they believed no other bodies were buried inside.

"We drilled holes in the freshly poured concrete. A cadaver dog was brought out and did not hit on any additional spots in the basement," Matonovich said. "We feel we dug up what we could and there are no more bodies in the basement."

Officers have also searched in and around the two-story apartment house using ground-penetrating radar equipment, Cory said. Tarps were hung between the house and the home next door, and newspapers covered a first-floor window to block views of the search.

The site of the search was just north of downtown Hammond, in a neighborhood of tightly packed, dilapidated homes. City officials said they have battled gang activity in the area and installed high-powered street lights in an attempt to curb crime.

Cory would not say whether Maust had talked about the deaths of Dennis and James, or whether investigators suspect anyone else was involved in the slayings. Lake County Prosecutor Bernard Carter declined to say whether any sexual abuse was involved.

Various media reported that Maust pleaded guilty to killing a 15-year-old boy near Elgin, Ill., in 1981. Sentenced to 35

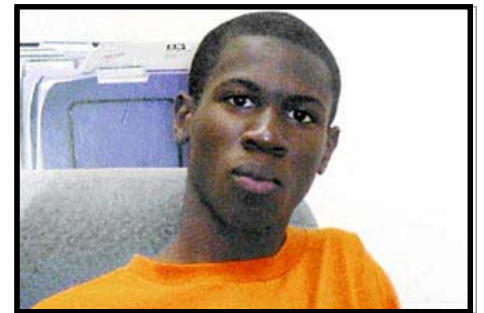
years in prison, he was paroled four years ago.

Maust made sexual advances toward the boy at an abandoned quarry, then stabbed him in the abdomen, threw him in the water and held his head under until he drowned, according to the reports, which quoted court records.

When he was charged with the Illinois murder, Maust was serving a five-year sentence in a Texas jail for stabbing a child.

Phil Bettiker, a former Cook County, Ill., sheriff's investigator, dealt with the 1981 case.

"I would like to have seen him go away for a longer time" for that killing, Bettiker said. "I think he's gone this time."



Boy's Conviction in Wrestling Death Thrown Out

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — Lionel Tate, the teenager serving a life sentence for killing a 6-year-old playmate, must get a new trial, an appellate court ruled Wednesday.

The news brought an ecstatic response from the 16-year-old's mother.

"I want to thank God first. I want to scream, shout and cry at the same time," Kathleen Grossett-Tate told Fox News. "I want to thank all of the people who have been helping and praying for us."

The judges of the 4th District Court of Appeal ruled Wednesday that Tate's first-degree murder conviction and life sentence should be reversed because Tate's com-

Cont. on next pg.

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petency should have been evaluated before the trial.

"Questions regarding Tate's competency were not lurking subtly in the background, but were readily apparent, as his immaturity and developmental delays were very much at the heart of the defense," Judge Barry J. Stone wrote.

Tate's lawyers argued that Tate, then 12, was imitating the pro wrestling moves he saw on television and did not mean to kill Tiffany Eunick. The 48-pound girl was punched, kicked and stomped to death by Tate, who weighed 170 pounds.

The case has raised questions about a controversial Florida law that requires children convicted of first-degree murder to get life in prison without parole. Florida has been widely criticized for using the law to lock up children.

Tate's age at the time of the killing made him the youngest defendant in Florida to get a life-without-parole sentence under the law.

"I feel like somebody lifted a 200-pound weight off my head. It's just a beautiful thing, and I hope now that Lionel's going to have a chance at a life," said Jim Lewis, Tate's lawyer at his trial.

Broward County prosecutors said only that they are reviewing the ruling to determine whether to hold a new trial. Tate will remain behind bars in the meantime.

The boy and his mother had insisted he was innocent and turned down a plea bargain before the trial that would have given him a three-year sentence. If he had accepted the deal, he could have been out of prison 10 months ago.

Lewis said he hopes prosecutors offer a similar plea bargain and allow Tate to be released.

Defense attorney Richard Rosenbaum had argued before the appeals court that Tate was too immature to understand what was at stake during the trial.

"It's a good day for Lionel," Rosenbaum told Fox News Wednesday. "He screamed 'Fantastic!' on the phone."

The appeals court said at a minimum, the trial judge had an obligation to ensure that Tate understood the plea offer and the possibility of a life sentence if he rejected it. The three-judge panel noted that Tate had "significant mental delays" and a below-average IQ of about 90.

At his trial, Tate's lawyers argued that the boy thought he could body-slam people and they would walk away unhurt, just like his wrestling idols on television.

"I don't think Lionel intended to kill this little girl. I don't think Lionel intended to hurt this little girl," Lewis said. "This is not somebody who goes to school with a gun and tried to kill somebody. This is an innocent 12-year-old boy who played too rough."

The appeals court judges did not challenge the law that allowed Tate to get life without parole.

"Florida courts have long recognized that there is no absolute right requiring children to be treated in a special system for juvenile offenders," Stone wrote.

When the judges heard the appeal in September, however, they repeatedly questioned the law, which allows any person, regardless of age, to be prosecuted as an adult.

"There's no discretion exercised at all in this — no societal judgment," Judge Martha C. Warner said. "Age is not a consideration."

Judge Fred A. Hazouri asked then what is to stop prosecutors from charging a 6-year-old with murder if the child gets angry at a Little League game, picks up a bat and kills a teammate. "At what point do we say as a society that that is just too young?" Hazouri said.

Assistant Attorney General Debra Rescigno would not answer what would be a reasonable age cutoff. She said

Tate's life sentence was deserved because he horrifically beat the girl for more than five minutes.

Florida leads the world in prosecuting juveniles as adults, according to the Juvenile Law Center.

The state passed a law several years ago to hold youngsters more accountable for violent crimes. The crackdown was prompted by public outrage over cases in which juveniles received minimal punishment for violent crimes.

As of March, Florida had 121 inmates serving life sentences for crimes such as murder, sexual battery and armed robbery that were committed when they were 15 or younger.

Tiffany suffered a fractured skull, lacerated liver, broken rib, internal bleeding and cuts and bruises.

The boy told police that picked her up and accidentally hit her head against a table.

But the defense's own experts conceded that Tate's story would not have accounted for all of Tiffany's injuries, which one prosecution expert said were comparable to a fall from a three-story building.



SPORTS



Okla. QB Jason White Wins Heisman Trophy

By JOSH DUBOW
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Jason White capped a remarkable comeback with college football's most prestigious award, winning the Heisman Trophy on Saturday night a year after an injury nearly ended his career.

The Oklahoma quarterback, who almost quit football following his second major knee injury in September 2002, beat out Pittsburgh receiver Larry Fitzgerald by 128 points for the award.

"Last year about this time, I was sitting at home watching the Heisman and thought how neat it would be to be there, to be one of the finalists," White said. "I never thought, after two surgeries, that I'd be here."

White threw 40 touchdown passes and led the third-ranked Sooners to 12 straight wins to open the season and a spot in the Bowl Championship Series title game against No. 2 LSU.

Even a subpar performance in a loss in the Big 12 title game last week against

Kansas State couldn't stop White from winning the award. His three months of brilliance before that were more than enough to persuade voters to pick him.

White, The Associated Press Player of the Year, led the nation in passing efficiency, completing 64 percent of his passes for 3,744 yards and only eight interceptions.

White beat Fitzgerald 1,481-1,353. Eli Manning was third with 710 points and Chris Perry was next with 341.

Voters list three choices on their ballots, and players are awarded three points for first place, two for second and one for third.

White, the first Oklahoma player since Billy Sims in 1978 to win the Heisman, had 319 first-place votes, 204 seconds and 116 thirds.

Fitzgerald, who set an NCAA record with touchdown catches in 18 straight games, had 253 firsts, 233 seconds and 128 thirds. He was trying to become the first sophomore to win the award.

Manning became the third member of his family to come close but fall short for the Heisman. His father, Archie, finished fourth in 1969 and third the following year, while older brother, Peyton, came in second in 1997.

Manning, who passed for 3,341 yards with 27 touchdowns this season, had 95 firsts, 132 seconds and 161 thirds.

Perry, who was fifth in the nation with 132.4 yards rushing per game and also scored 19 touchdowns, came in fourth with 27 firsts, 66 seconds and 128 thirds.

Three of the four finalists struggled with their conference titles on the line, with only Perry delivering in a 204-yard, two-TD game in a 35-21 victory against Ohio State.

Just as one bad game didn't stop Oklahoma from making it to the Sugar Bowl, it also didn't stop White, who was helped by the 50 percent of voters who cast their

ballots before that game. Fitzgerald got the most points from people who voted in the final week, but it wasn't enough to catch White.

White became the fourth Sooner to win the Heisman, joining Sims, Steve Owens (1969) and Billy Vessels (1952). Sims was sitting with his former coach, Barry Switzer, in the audience and yelled encouragement to White as he walked up to accept the award.

White is hoping to become the third quarterback to win the Heisman and the national title in the same season, joining Florida State's Charlie Ward (1993) and Florida's Danny Wuerffel (1996).

Recent Heisman-winning quarterbacks haven't fared so well, with Florida State's Chris Weinke (2000) and Nebraska's Eric Crouch (2001) both following up their Heisman wins with subpar title-game performances.

Kansas State running back Darren Sproles was fifth, followed by Southern California quarterback Matt Leinart, North Carolina State quarterback Philip Rivers, USC receiver Mike Williams, Miami of Ohio quarterback Ben Roethlisberger and Texas Tech quarterback B.J. Symons.

A regional voting breakdown had White winning the Far West, Southwest and South regions. Fitzgerald won the Midwest, Northeast and Mid-Atlantic.

The award completes an amazing transformation that began on Sept. 7, 2002, when White crumpled to the turf against Alabama with a torn right knee ligament. He had injured the same ligament on the other knee a year earlier and contemplated quitting the sport he loves.

His father persuaded him not to give up and White soon began the hard road back.

"I wanted to be back on the field with my teammates," White said. "For a while, it didn't seem like it would happen."

————— **cont** on next pg.

SPORTS Continued

Hours of rehab finally paid off when coach Bob Stoops told White he won a four-way competition for the job before the start of fall practice.

In a season where remaining healthy and keeping the starting job would have been a great accomplishment, White did so much more.

The small-town kid from Tuttle, Okla., quickly answered all those questions. Performing in stadiums with nearly 20 times as many fans as live in his home town, displayed the poise and touch necessary to turn Oklahoma into a record-setting offense.

He threw at least two touchdowns in his first 12 games, including 13 in the three games before the Big 12 championship. His pinpoint accuracy helped his receivers break big runs after the catch and helped the team score at least 50 points seven times this season.

"His emergence as a great, great football player is the story of college football," Stoops said. "The biggest difference in our team is that Jason White is the quarterback. It ought to be pretty obvious."

It turned out it was to the Heisman voters.



Tiger Woods Perseveres After Knee Injury

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. (AP) — The Target World Challenge is the final silly

season event of the year, although there was nothing silly about it to Tiger Woods in 2002.

Trying to catch Pádraig Harrington in the final round, Woods hit a drive into the shaggy grass on a hill left of the ninth fairway.

Woods winced when he tried to slash the ball out of the rough from an awkward lie. His knee buckled, and he limped toward the green.

"From then on, I knew something had to be done," Woods recalled.

His left knee had been aching most of the year, even though Woods had won five times, including the Masters and U.S. Open.

Five days after the '02 Target World Challenge, he had arthroscopic surgery.

"At the end of last year, it was tough just to be out there to play golf. It was tough just getting up and out of bed," Woods said Tuesday. "The knee was very swollen and sore, and a lot of bad habits crept into my swing because I had to make alterations to alleviate some of the pain and discomfort."

Woods missed the first five weeks of the 2003 season, but he recovered just fine.

"I forgot he missed all that time at the start of the year," Kenny Perry said. "Amazing."

It was amazing because Woods won his first tournament back by four shots, then won a World Golf Championship two weeks later, a dominant performance over five days in the Match Play Championship.

Woods finished the year without a major or the most money. Still, he won five times, had the second-lowest scoring average in PGA Tour history and won his fifth straight player of the year award.

"If I could have won one tournament at the beginning of the year, I would have taken it," Woods said. "The physical

hurdle was easy to overcome, but I think the mental hurdle was the most difficult because I would still flinch and give it my old golf swing that I had to play with all of last year to try to get by. That was the toughest thing."

He is healthy and happy, coming off the close player of the year vote that went his way Monday, and a marriage proposal that also went his way two weeks ago.

Asked if he had registered anywhere for wedding gifts, Woods, who brings in at least \$65 million a year in earnings and endorsements, said he won't do that until he and fiancée Elin Nordegren set a date.



Serena Williams Signs Deal With Nike

By HOWARD FENDRICH
AP Tennis Writer

Serena Williams can start putting a swoosh on the tennis outfits she designs. Williams agreed to terms on a sponsorship contract with Nike, a deal that could be worth close to \$40 million over five years, a tennis source told The Associated Press on Thursday.

The agreement has an option for a three-year extension, according to the source,

————— **Cont** on next pg.

————— **Nike** from pg. 10 who spoke on condition of anonymity. The contract includes royalties and performance bonuses for winning Grand Slam tournaments and reaching No. 1 in the rankings.

Nike announced it reached a multiyear deal with Williams but did not reveal the length or financial terms. Her lawyer did not return a phone message for comment.

"Serena Williams is more than a world-class tennis player - she is a world-class athlete," Nike marketing director Riccardo Colombini said. "Working with Serena will give Nike valuable insights."

Williams, 21, has won five of the last seven Grand Slam tournaments, beating older sister Venus in the final each time.

She held the No. 1 ranking for a year until being sidelined because of knee surgery on Aug. 1. Williams pulled out of every tournament the rest of the year and finished 2003 at No. 3. She expects to return to action by the Australian Open.

Venus Williams has a deal with Reebok that could be worth up to \$40 million over five years. She signed that in December 2000 after winning Wimbledon and the U.S. Open for the first time. Serena Williams' contract with Puma expired early this year.

Nike figures to benefit from non-tennis interests that have made her more visible, including clothing designs and acting. She drew a lot of attention for the black "cat suit" and pink zippered outfit she wore while winning the 2002 U.S. Open. With help from the William Morris agency, she landed roles in a movie called "Beauty Shop" and the Showtime drama "Street Time."

A 2002 survey of the public relations industry deemed Williams and Tiger Woods the most attractive spokespersons among athletes.

"We'll work very closely with Serena, not only as a tennis player and an athlete, but also as an athlete to develop products that will support her tennis performance and help grow the game," Nike spokesman Dave Mingey said.

"We're all very excited about the opportunity to see her input in the development of products, both for on the court and off."



Maryland Shocks No. 1 Florida 69-68

By **EDDIE PELLIS**
AP Sports Writer

GAINESVILLE, Fla. (AP) — Florida failed to make its claim as the best team on its home floor, let alone the whole country. Travis Garrison made a jumper for the winning points in overtime Wednesday night to lift Maryland to a 69-68 victory over the top-ranked Gators and give coach Gary Williams his 300th victory with the Terrapins.

The Gators, who moved to No. 1 in The Associated Press' poll this week, fell to 5-1 and all but guaranteed there will be a new top-ranked team for the fourth straight week on Monday. It won't, however, be Maryland (5-2), which came in unranked - a standing that showed just how unscientific the polls are.

Bigger, stronger and shooting better through the first 25 minutes, the Terrapins got big plays from John Gilchrist (18 points), Jamar Smith (12 points, nine rebounds) and Nik Caner-Medley (22 points, 13 rebounds) to build a 17-point

lead. But they went on an amazing cold streak, failing to score a field goal over the final 9 minutes of regulation. In fact, their only two baskets over the final 16 minutes came on breakaway dunks after steals - and Florida tied it at 60 to send the game to overtime.

Anthony Roberson (20 points) hit a 3-pointer and Matt Walsh took an outlet pass from Roberson to help the Gators take a 68-64 lead in overtime, but the Terps didn't give up. Caner-Medley hit a shot standing on the 3-point line to cut the deficit to two, D.J. Strawberry made a free throw, then, after yet another stop in a rugged, defensive game, the Terps worked the ball to Garrison, who spotted up and hit the game-winner. Maryland sealed the win by blocking Adrian Moss' shot with 1.1 seconds left.

Florida, meanwhile, fell to 0-2 in games after moving to No. 1. The Gators fell 70-55 to Kentucky last February after moving to the top of the poll for the first time in school history. Many felt Florida was flat in that game. That wasn't the case this time. Maryland simply outplayed the Gators over the first half, and when Ekene Ibekwe hit a 3-pointer with 16 minutes left in the second half, the Terrapins led 49-32.

Florida played great defense to get back in it, but blew a couple chances to take the lead late. Moss and David Lee each missed two free throws in the final two minutes with the Gators trailing by one.

That was just part of the general ugliness of this one. Suffering with an injured leg, Lee went 1-for-12 from the field and finished with nine points. Walsh shot 4-for-13. The Gators made only 31 percent of their shots after shooting better than 50 percent the first five games.

Maryland, meanwhile, snapped a two-game losing streak and helped Williams get No. 300 in the most unlikely of venues. The Terps were supposed to be too young to seriously contend this season, although Gilchrist, Garrison and Caner-Medley - all sophomores - might be proving that theory wrong.

HEADLINERS

Cashier Cashes in on Rejected Lotto Ticket

NEW MILFORD, Conn. (AP) — Courtesy counts in dealing with customers, but it also has paid off for a supermarket cashier who says a rude customer turned out to be worth \$25,000. A grumpy customer was the source of luck for Loretta Morris who works at the Northville Market.

"We have a policy in our store to ask for a driver's license when someone buys lottery tickets, cigarettes or alcohol,"

Morris said Tuesday.

But one customer last Tuesday decided not to produce a picture ID to purchase a \$5 Silver Bells scratch-off Connecticut state lottery ticket. Morris said the customer told her to "stick the ticket," when she asked for proof he was 18.

At the end of her shift she decided to just buy the ticket instead of putting it back and having a loose ticket in the store.

She took the ticket home where she scratched the ticket, which had three chances to win. Morris had almost given up when the little scratch-off wrapped present and the Christmas tree didn't yield prizes, but the third little scratch-off box made her an instant winner.

On Friday, she and her husband traveled an hour to New Britain's lottery office and returned with a check for \$17,501 after federal and state taxes.

N.M. Families Flee Homes From Raw Sewage

ALBUQUERQUE (AP) — About 10 families in a subdivision on Albuquerque's west mesa were forced out of their homes when raw sewage flooded their homes. Ted Asbury, director of the city's public works department, said discarded cans and beer bottles likely caused a backup that sent gallons of fecal matter into homes Tuesday afternoon.

"There was this roar coming from our toilets and sinks, and then I looked outside and saw one manhole cover pop, then another down the street," said one resident, Michael Lucero Sr. "Next thing you

knew, the sewage was coming out." Lucero's neighbor, Rhonda Moya, said thousands of dollars in of Christmas gifts under her tree were ruined.

"The restoration people say that our tile will have to come out and the drywall in the walls will have to be cut ... because of all the hazardous stuff has seeped into the walls," Moya said. A resident called dispatchers about 2:30 p.m., reporting his drains had backed up. When crews opened a manhole, they discovered the line blocked by trash. "We found soda cans, plastics, beer cans, beer bottles,"

Asbury said.

Public works officials believe the material was dumped. The sewer line was not damaged. "My crews in the field say they've never seen anything like this," Asbury said. However, another resident, Ruby Hernandez, said the same thing happened five months ago. "The sewage came out on the streets," Hernandez said. The city's risk management division paid for the displaced families to stay at a hotel while crews worked on the line, Asbury said. It was not clear how long repairs would take.

Lawyer Who Doused Urine Faces Trial

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A federal judge is to resume hearing testimony Monday in a case involving an angry lawyer who doused urine on office equipment in retaliation against a co-worker. Gregory L. Fronimos, 49, is being prosecuted by the federal government for "malicious mischief" to government property.

His attorney, Michael McCrum, wants the judge to dismiss the case because he does not want embarrassing allegations that detail Fronimos' actions to be made public. Fronimos reportedly caused more than \$1,000 in damage to three telephones, a computer keyboard, and a computer last year.

U.S. Magistrate Pamela Mathy will listen to testimony on McCrum's request. Federal prosecutors pursued charges af-

ter Fronimos confessed to his bosses at Brooks City-Base that he poured urine on the office equipment of a co-worker several times.

A court-filed Air Force memo said Fronimos was upset because a co-worker allegedly referred to him in a profane manner and disparaged him to other employees. The incidents led to his resignation as a seven-year Air Force reservist. He also quit his job as a lawyer with the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence in late January.

McCrum believes that should have been enough punishment. He said Fronimos' bosses told him they would take no further action if he quit. "It did merit some administrative penalties," McCrum said, "but now they want to brand him a criminal and prosecute him as a criminal."

Government witnesses testified on Nov. 24 that no promises were made to Fronimos that he wouldn't be prosecuted. McCrum said government refused to accept Fronimos offer to pay for damages.

"It's a mistake that happened," McCrum said. "It happened during a period of his life where he was under an extreme amount of emotional strain as the result of several different things happening in his life at the same time."

Fronimos has not discussed his actions, but court records said the incidents occurred between Aug. 1, 2002, and Nov. 23, 2002. Fronimos faces up to a year in jail and could also face a fine up to \$100,000, if convicted. He is eligible for probation, Assistant U.S. Attorney Mary Nelda Valadez said in Monday's online edition of the San Antonio Express-News.

Sunday, December 14, 2003








Final	1	2	3	4	T
NY Giants (4-10-0)	0	7	0	0	7
New Orleans (7-7-0)	10	14	14	7	45
Final	1	2	3	4	T
Detroit (4-10-0)	0	10	7	0	17
Kansas City (12-2-0)	14	14	17	0	45
Final	1	2	3	4	T
San Francisco (6-8-0)	0	17	0	21	38
Cincinnati (8-6-0) «	7	14	10	10	41
Final	1	2	3	4	T
Buffalo (6-8-0)	0	10	7	9	26
Tennessee (10-4-0)	3	3	8	14	28
Final	1	2	3	4	T
Seattle (8-6-0)	2	10	3	7	22
St. Louis (11-3-0) «	14	7	0	6	27
Final	1	2	3	4	T
Baltimore (8-6-0)	3	3	6	0	12
Oakland (4-10-0) «	10	7	0	3	20
Final	1	2	3	4	T
Green Bay (8-6-0) «	7	10	0	21	38
San Diego (3-11-0)	3	0	3	15	21
Final	1	2	3	4	T
Dallas (9-5-0) «	7	7	3	10	27
Washington (5-9-0)	0	0	0	0	0

Final	1	2	3	4	T
Jacksonville (4-10-0)	3	3	0	7	13
New England (12-2-0)	7	6	0	14	27
Final	1	2	3	4	T
Atlanta (3-11-0)	0	0	7	0	7
Indianapolis (11-3-0)	14	10	14	0	38
Final	1	2	3	4	T
Minnesota (8-6-0)	0	3	0	7	10
Chicago (6-8-0) «	3	7	3	0	13
Final	1	2	3	4	T
Houston (5-9-0)	0	0	3	0	3
Tampa Bay (7-7-0) «	7	6	3	0	16
Final	1	2	3	4	T
Pittsburgh (5-9-0)	0	0	0	0	0
NY Jets (6-8-0) «	3	3	0	0	6
Final OT	1	2	3	4	OT
Cleveland (4-10-0)	0	10	0	10	0
Denver (9-5-0) «	10	0	0	10	3
Final	1	2	3	4	T
Carolina (9-5-0) «	7	0	3	10	20
Arizona (3-11-0)	7	7	0	3	17

NFL WEEK 15 SCORES

Courtesy of NFL.com

KANDAHAR WEEKLY FORECAST

	Mon Dec 15	Tue Dec 16	Wed Dec 17	Thur Dec 18	Fri Dec 19	Sat Dec 20	Sun Dec 21
	 DUST Dusty skies	 DUST Less Dust More Sun	 Partly cloudy	 Mostly Sunny	 Partly cloudy	 Cloudy	 DUST Dusty skies
HIGH	48	50	55	57	62	61	44
LOW	30	36	39	41	43	40	30
SUNRISE	0233	0234	0234	0235	0235	0236	0236
SUNSET	1233	1233	1234	1234	1234	1235	1235

KANDAHAR COMBAT WEATHER TEAM

Mountain Warrior Weekly is always accepting comments and suggestions as to how we can improve your newspaper. If you have comments or suggestions, or simply just want to be added to our emailing list, email the staff at

Kandaharpresscenter@yahoo.com



The Capture of SADDAM HUSSEIN

Dec. 13



SADDAM'S HIDING PLACE

Entrance hidden by bricks and rubble

6ft

Saddam Hussein

Air vent

Fan

